

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as indicated hereafter.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter (where underlining “_” denotes additions and strikethrough “-” denotes deletions).

1.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of providing statistics for billing users of data services provided over a cable television network comprising the steps of:

monitoring a length of an upstream connection of ~~session duration of a link to a~~ network access device and storing data related thereto;

monitoring an amount of data ~~transferred~~ transmitted across said upstream link connection and storing data related thereto; and

monitoring an amount of data rejected as exceeding a requested bandwidth lost ~~in said link~~ and storing data related thereto, ~~the statistics permitting a flexible billing structure.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising: ~~the step of~~ monitoring and storing the start time of the ~~session~~ connection.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising: ~~the steps of~~

recording ~~the~~ an address of the network access device and of the apparatus to which said network access device is linked during said ~~session~~ connection.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising: ~~the steps of~~ providing a plurality of service tiers depending on maximum shared bandwidth or bit rate.

24. – 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising: ~~the step of~~ storing a preauthorized level of service data for subscribers, an administration computer communicating said preauthorized level of service to a link access controller for regulating service at said preauthorized level.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~A method as recited in~~ claim 19, further comprising:
receiving parametric statistical data for a session of a network access device at an administration computer.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~A method as recited in~~ claim 27, wherein said parametric statistical data comprises amount of data transferred ~~and amount of data~~ ~~lost~~.

29. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

storing a preauthorized level of service data for subscribers, an administration computer communicating said preauthorized level of service to a link access controller for regulating service at said preauthorized level.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

monitoring the bit error rate of the data transmitted across said upstream connection and storing data related thereto.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

monitoring and storing the start time of the connection.

32. (New) A method of providing statistics for billing users of data services provided over a cable television network comprising the steps of:

monitoring a length of an upstream connection of a network access device and
storing data related thereto;

monitoring an amount of data transmitted across said upstream connection and
storing data related thereto; and

monitoring the bit error rate of the data transmitted across said upstream connection and storing data related thereto.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
monitoring and storing the start time of the connection.
34. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
recording the address of the network access device and of an apparatus to
which said network access device is linked during said connection.
35. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
providing a plurality of service tiers depending on a maximum shared
bandwidth or bit rate.
36. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
storing a preauthorized level of service data for subscribers, an administration
computer communicating said preauthorized level of service to a link access controller
for regulating service at said preauthorized level.
37. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
receiving parametric statistical data for a session of a network access device at
an administration computer.
38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said parametric statistical data comprises the
total amount of data transferred.

39. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
monitoring an amount of data rejected as exceeding a requested bandwidth and storing data related thereto.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
storing a preauthorized level of service data for subscribers, an administration computer communicating said preauthorized level of service to a link access controller for regulating service at said preauthorized level.
41. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
providing a plurality of service tiers depending on a maximum shared bandwidth or bit rate.